Le Cirque de Karakuri

からくりサーカス

11

藤田和日郎
KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

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S comics

からくりサーカス

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11

藤田和日郎

His memory gone, Chinese martial artist Katou Narumi was staying in Paris.

Narumi, having decided to fight the Automata alongside Guy and Lucille, is on a journey to find the whereabouts of the key to this battle, the Soft Stone.

★

And so, they clashed with Ap'tcha and her cohorts, all surrounding Princess Eli, who was the most likely to have the Stone.

The Story So Far

While the Stone wasn't inside Eli's body, the three of them risked their lives to guard the princess when their ballroom was set ablaze, and stopped Ap'tcha's conspiracy to take Eli's place.

Meanwhile, not knowing Narumi is still alive, Saiga Masaru and Shirogane live out their days peacefully as members of the Nakamachi Circus.

★

Ho, but what is this suspicious shadow now?

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■薄田和日郎■

サーカス～ナイフ使いのヴィルマ

第1幕 開幕ベル

Circus-Knife-Wielding Vilma

Act 1 The Curtain Rises

Afflicted with the Zonapha Syndrome, Chinese martial artist Katou Narumi woke up in France and became embroiled in the battle between Automata and the Automata-destroying "Shirogane".

In the 18th century.

This war began long ago...

2

The Soft Stone.

And what the two sides pursue that will tip the balance of power...

One the other, the Shirogane, immortals who fight by manipulating marionettes to avenge the destruction of their village by Automata.

On one side, the Automata, brought to life by alchemy.

Residents of the village that was destroyed by Automata drank Aqua Vitae and became Shirogane.

The name of this elixir is "Aqua Vitae".

Using alchemy, this special stone is the base for miracle elixir which will cure any human ill and can change Automata into human beings.

Now, the Automata's leader is Francine...

She is the sole "Human Doll" made by drinking Aqua Vitae.

Narumi's life was also saved by this elixir, making him a Shirogane, and he's begun pursing the Automata.

And this is that she cannot smile.

Only one thing differentiates her from human beings...

In the end, Francine's creations could not make her smile, but she thought that if they were made into Human Dolls as she had been, then they could make her smile.

Lamenting this, she used her skills to create the Automata, who were to make her smile.

to become human.

to make Aqua Vitae,

To find the Soft Stone,

Since then, they have marched the world,

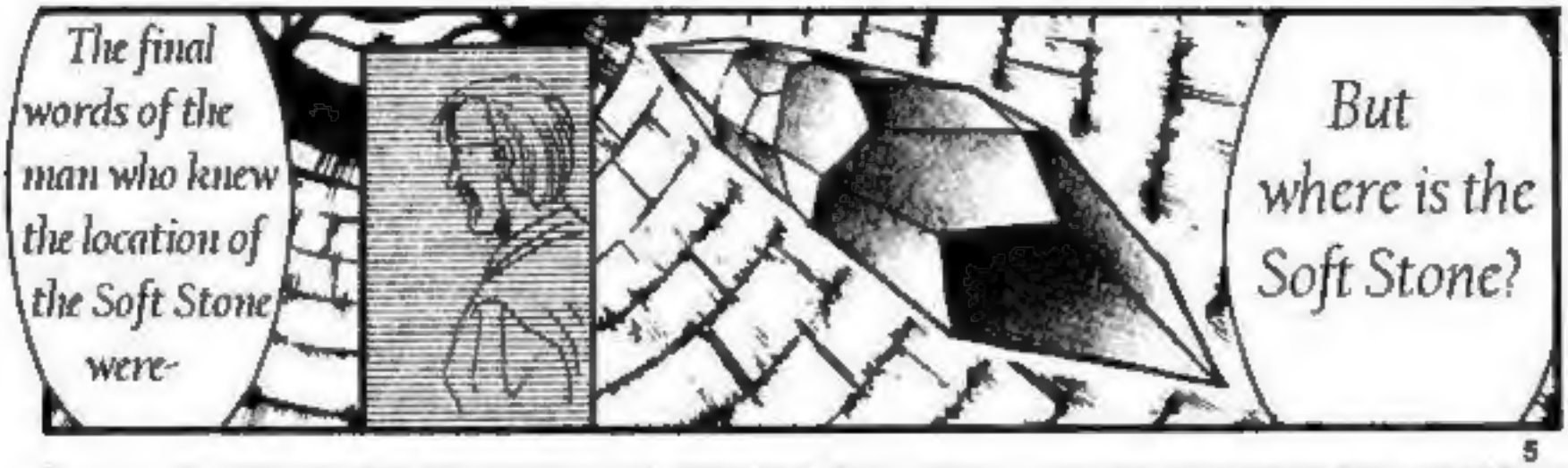
Spreading terror, the basis of their life force the blood they suck from humans...

Here and there they go, spreading Zonapha Syndrome,

Taking all unaware, they have come to be called the "Midnight Circus".

Their goal is the destruction of the Midnight Circus...

And to find the Soft Stone before the seeking Automata find it!



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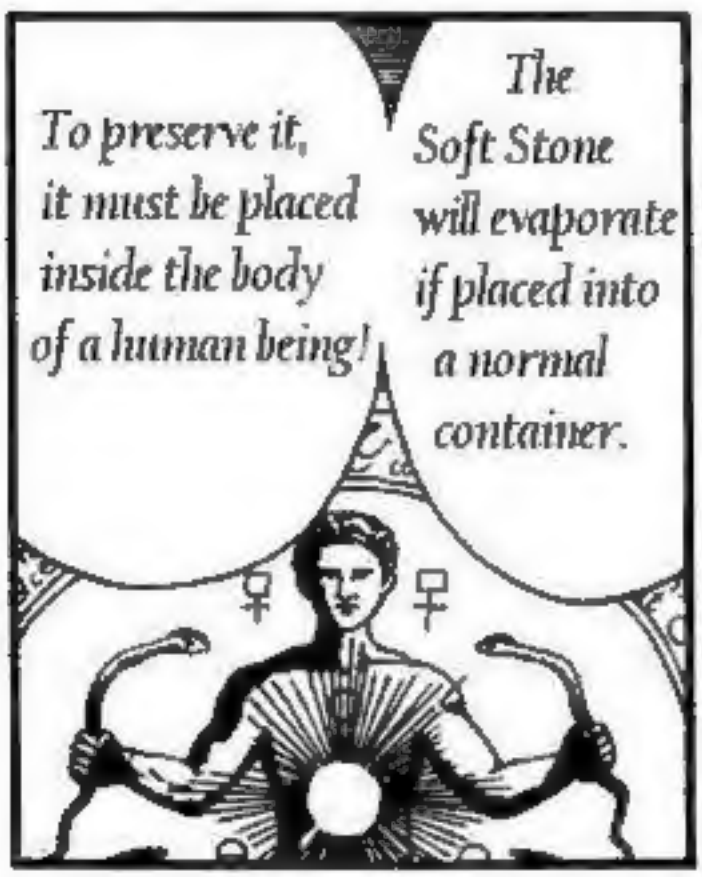

To preserve it, it must be placed inside the body of a human being!
The Soft Stone will evaporate if placed into a normal container.

9

Still,

where is the Soft Stone, sought by Automata and shirogane alike?

But now, for a while, let us change our protagonist to Saiga Masaru.

Well then,

Narumi and his friends' escapades have charmed,

Forgive my long-winded digression.
Let us begin the play, the "Circus" of "Karakuri Circus"

Perhaps it's right under our noses.

Kuh kuh, kind spectators.

New York

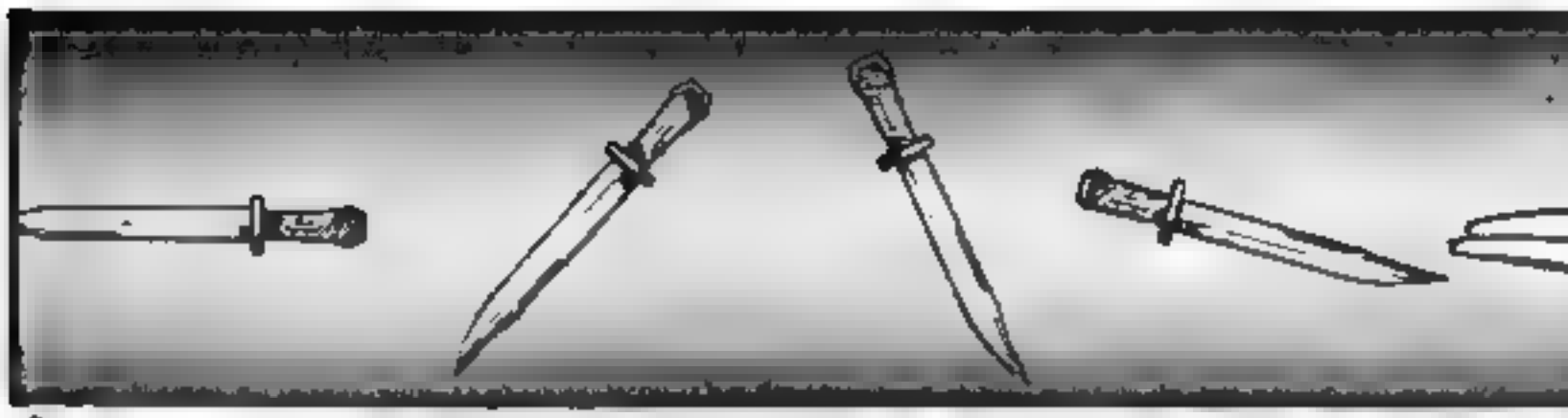
It's just one dike!

God dammit! Why can't we kill her!!

Get her!

Ge-

KA-CHI



Gah!!

KA-CHI

I'll pay you... what we agreed...

I'm... I'm sorry!

I'd do the hit and then you'd get rid of me too, huh?

Boss, you thought you could screw me over.

I...I was just...

W-we weren't going to get rid of you...

Just thinking of you...

Vilma!!

It...

It can't be...

...are faster than any bullet.

Black Vilma's shooting stars...

I can't... go on, Vilma.

Hang in there, Pam.

Don't talk, Pam.

Isn't it about time... to go straight?

Hey... Hey, Vilma...

It's all right... it's something you resign yourself to in this business...

You can't leave me all alone.

T-that was just a joke, Pam! I was born to the circus... but now...

"I'll go back to the circus"...

You've been saying it for a long time... "Someday, I won't be a hit man..."

Huh?

Don't forget... your little brother... Vilma.

Pam, stand up!

Go straight.

Save the money... from your next job.

P a m ! !

P a m ?

... is already ...

Your final...

job...

set...

Japan

1917

1917

Hup!

Yoh...

In America, we always called the Danchou* that as a sign of respect.

Lise, don't call me that. The Nakamachi Circus doesn't even have a ring!

What's the matter, Ringmaster?

Hmm...

And, Shirogane can handle just about anything with ease.

Even without her machine, she's a flexible acrobat.

Now, we have your animal taming, Nori's chair balancing,

and Hiro's tightrope...

Well, I guess that's all right then...

I've been thinking we don't have enough on our program.

Really?

Yes! Something just like that! You understand completely!

ぱしぱし

You mean... like a pistol show... or knife-throwing?

But still, it's not enough!

When I didn't know if there would even be a tomorrow for this circus, you and Shirogane really turned it around with your performances. I'm grateful for that.

Thrills to make them tingle, to make them scream!

THRILLS!

おはははは

But... without even a tent, we can't put on a show... no matter what I say!

.....

16

Shirogane's going to a nearby high school...

Uh-huh. Now that summer break is over, I'm going to grade school here.

That's enough from you two!

Tadaima.

Oh, Masaru, you've transferred to your new school?

20

Oh, that's very lucky.

Hey, Masaru-san...

Because he is the son of a mistress, his father's legitimate children were jealous and hired assassins.

Obocchama* was left 18 billion yen by his father, the head of a major company.

I must protect Obocchama...

But I cannot be negligent.

Over three months ago now.

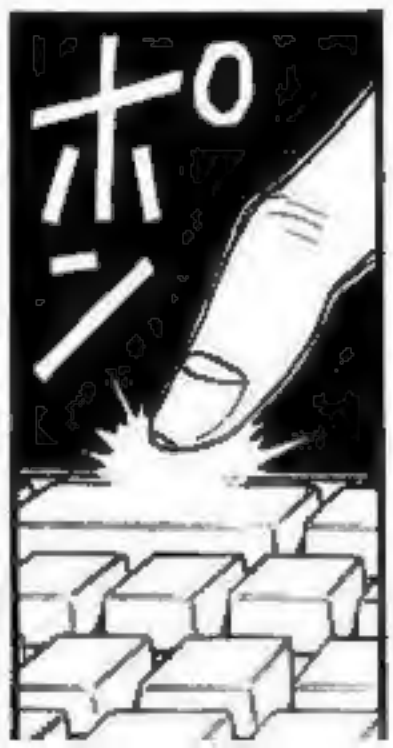
It happened and now it is finished.

REQUEST

MISSION : MURDER

CLIENT : JAPAN, SAIGA GROUP PRESIDENT.
SAIGA REAL ESTATE DIRECTOR.
KOUTAROU SAIGA

FEE : $200,000



One-Woman Show

Presents

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translation, Cleaning, Scanlation:

HisaRania

All for the Love of Fujita-Sensei!